

Dignity for All Students Act

Plain Language Explanation to Students

Bullying (also known as harassment), intimidation and discrimination are offenses we take very seriously at Fort Edward School. If ever we feel that a student’s actions are interfering with another student's right to receive an education in a safe environment, we will take action which may include disciplinary consequences.

Bullying (or harassment): A way to try to gain power over another person, with the intent to harm them. It is the creation of a hostile environment that impacts a student’s educational performance, well-being, and causes one to fear for their personal safety.

There are three forms of bullying (or harassment):

- **Verbal bullying** - Name calling, insults, threats, emails, and cyberbullying are all examples.
- **Physical bullying** – Physical attacks of any kind, damaging personal property, gesturing are all examples
- **Social/relational bullying** – Spreading rumors, gossiping, publicly humiliating (online or in person), teasing about clothing/appearance are just a few examples of this.

These actions can also occur off school grounds but end up impacting one’s ability to learn in school (for instance, Facebook comments about classmates, spreading rumors via text message, or texting a threat to harm someone at school).

Discrimination: Discrimination occurs anytime someone denies another person their basic human rights or opportunities to pursue their goals based on characteristics of that person.

These characteristics could be (but are not limited to) someone’s:

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Race | Religious practice | Color | Disability |
| Weight | Sex | National origin | Sexual orientation |
| Ethnic group | Gender | Religion | |

Above all, think before you act. Keep the feelings of others in mind before making comments or doing something you may regret later. Always ask questions if you are unsure of procedures or rules

“Bullying” is aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically it is repeated over time. The behaviors may include but are not limited to:

	Physical	Social	Emotional
1	Making threatening gestures, Defacing property, Taking small items, Bumping	Taunting, Name calling, Insulting remarks	Gossiping, Spreading rumors, Teasing publicly, Passively or actively not including someone in a group
2	Threatening physical harm, Damaging property, Stealing, Pushing/shoving or tripping, Assaulting	Harassing, Instigating fights, Cyberbullying (i.e. threatening or harassing emails, text messages, social media, phone calls), Defacing school work, Falsifying school work	Insulting race or sexual orientation, Increased gossip/rumors, Undermining relationships, Excluding from a group
3	Practicing extortion, Repeated violent threats, Assaulting with a weapon, Threats of blackmail, Destroying property, Physical attacks (punching, scratching, pushing, biting), Actions that leave visible marks	Frightening cyber bullying with specific threats, Challenging in public, Ostracizing behavior	Pre-meditated public humiliation, Total group rejection/ostracizing